sponsorship of terrorism in Jammu & Kashmir and elsewhere in India.

Agreement to secure border between India and Nepal

2704. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and Nepal have recently agreed to secure the border between them without disturbing the free flow of its nationals;

(b) if so, the details of discussions held between National Security Advisor with high dignitaries of Nepal Government at Kathmandu; and

(c) to what extent Nepalese Government have succeeded in checking the free flow of ISI agents and anti-Indian activists at its borders?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) to (c) The third meeting of the India-Nepal Joint Working Group on Border Management was held from February 1—3, 2000 in Kathmandu. Subsequently, the Home Secretary-level talks between the two countries were also held in Kathmandu from July 5—7, 2000. During these meetings, the two sides reiterated their determination not to permit the use of their respective terrorists for activities directed against the other. They had a useful exchange of views on modalities for more effective management and regulation of the India-Nepal border. They agreed to strengthen cooperation to control undesirable activities and the movement of terrorists, criminals and other undesirable elements across the border. It was reiterated that the privilege of unimpeded access across the open border enjoyed by the nationals of the two countries should not be allowed to be misused by anyone, including third country nationals. The need for intensified and coordinated patrolling at sensitive border points was discussed with the objective of enhancing security and preventing missuse of the open India-Nepal border, while ensuring that the facility remains available for legitimate users.

An Indian delegation led by the Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister and the National Security Advisor, Shri Brajesh Mishra, visited Kathmandu from June 6-7, 2000 for the 5th Meeting of the India-Nepal High Level Task Force (HLTF), to review the ongoing Indian-assisted projects in Nepal and discuss new projects which could be taken up in future. During the visit, Principal Secretary, *inter alia*, had an audience with His Majesty the King of Nepal, called on the Nepalese Prime Minister, Home Minister, Foreign Minister and the Leader of the Opposition in Parliament, besides meeting the Chief Secretary and Foreign Secretary of Nepal. Although the visit was in the HLTF context, it did provide an opportunity for discussions on other bilateral issues as well, including those related to our security concerns.

On their part, the Government of Nepal have assured us that their territory would not be used for activities inimical to India's interest and have been extending their cooperation to the Government of India in this regard.

Compensation for Indian Repatriates from Kuwait

2705. SHRI N. K. PREMACHANDRAN:
SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA:
SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government aware that the compensation claim due to the Indian repatriates from Kuwait consequent to the Iraq-Kuwait War still pending to disposed of;

(b) how many cases still pending in which UNCC has already taken decision;

(c) whether any claim passed by UNCC stands declined by the banks for payment;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for the delay of payment; and